#### International Human Resource Management

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#### Learning Objectives

- Define international human resource management (IHRM)
- Understand how corporate strategy influences IHRM
- Explain the major IHRM functions: recruitment and selection, training and development, performance evaluation, compensation and benefits, and labor relations
- Discuss additional special concerns of managing expatriate employees

# International Human Resource Management (IHRM)

- The management of human resources in global corporations
- The management of expatriate employees
- The comparison of human resource management (HRM) practices in a variety of different countries

# Approaches to Managing and Staffing Subsidiaries

- EthnocentricHome country approach
- PolycentricLocal approach
- RegiocentricRegional approach
- Geocentric/Global
   Global approach

# Choosing an Approach to IHRM

- Corporate international strategy
- Political and legal concerns
- Level of development in foreign locations
- Technology and the nature of the product
- Organizational life cycle
- Age and history of the subsidiary
- Organizational and national cultural differences

#### Recruitment and Selection

- Processes through which an organization takes in new members
- Recruitment

Attracting a pool of qualified applicants for the positions available

Selection

Choosing the candidate whose qualifications most closely match the job requirements

## • • Classifying Employees

- Parent Country National (PCN)
- Host Country National (HCN)
- Third Country National (TCN)

# The Influence of Managing and Staffing Approaches

- Ethnocentric approach
  - PCN's usually staff important positions at headquarters and subsidiaries
- Polycentric approach
  - HCN's generally work in foreign subsidiaries
  - PCN's manage headquarters positions

## The Influence of Managing and Staffing Approaches

- Regiocentric approach
  - PCN's and managers from the region—either HCN's or TCN's staff regional headquarters positions
  - HCN's primarily staff local subsidiaries
- Geocentric approach
  - Chooses the most suitable person for a position

# Selecting the Right Candidate

- Need a balance between internal corporate consistency and sensitivity to local labor practices
- Consider cultural values
- Must comply with local labor laws

### Training and Development

Planned individual learning, organization development, and career development

## Delivery of Programs Worldwide

#### Centralized

- Ethnocentric training originates at headquarters and corporate trainers travel to subsidiaries
- Geocentric training develops through input from both headquarters and subsidiary staff and trainers could be from any location

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#### Delivery of Programs Worldwide

- Decentralized
  - Training on a local or regional basis
  - Local people develop training materials and techniques for use in their own area
- Effective training considers cultural background of trainees

# Developing Globally Minded Managers

- Companies whose CEO's have international assignment experience are better performers
- Companies must identify managers with global potential and provide them various training and development opportunities

### Performance Evaluation

- Systematic appraisal of employees' performance within the organization
- Depends on overall HRM strategy
- Should consider cultural influences

#### Compensation and Benefits

- Develops and administers the salary system and other forms of remuneration
- Compensation and benefit levels reflect local labor market conditions
- Company usually develops policy to offer salaries and benefits representing a specific market level
- Culture influences value put on various compensation and benefit practices

#### **Labor Relations**

- Identifies and defines the roles of management and workers in the workplace
- In many countries, government regulated
- Unions organized at the local, company, regional (within country), or national level
- Number of workers within a country who are union members varies

### Managing Expatriates

- Must deal with the complexities of employing and moving people outside of their home countries
- Cost a major factor

#### Expatriate Failure Rates

- Number who do not remain abroad for the duration of their assignment
- Varies by country and gender
- Failure rate correlated with the rigor of selection and training procedures

#### **Expatriate Selection**

- Western European, Japanese multinationals emphasize technical competence and ability to acclimate
- North American corporations select mainly on technical competence
- Behaviors successful at home may not work abroad
- Previous experience abroad may or may not predict future success

# Cross-Cultural Training Methods

**Cultural Briefings** 

Explain the major aspects of the host country culture, including customs, traditions, every day behaviors.

**Area Briefings** 

Explain the history, geography, economy, politics, and other general information about the host country and region.

Cases

Portray a real-life situation in business or personal life to illustrate some aspect of living or working in the host culture.

# Cross-Cultural Training Methods

#### **Role Playing**

Allows the trainee to act out a situation that he or she might face in living or working in the host country.

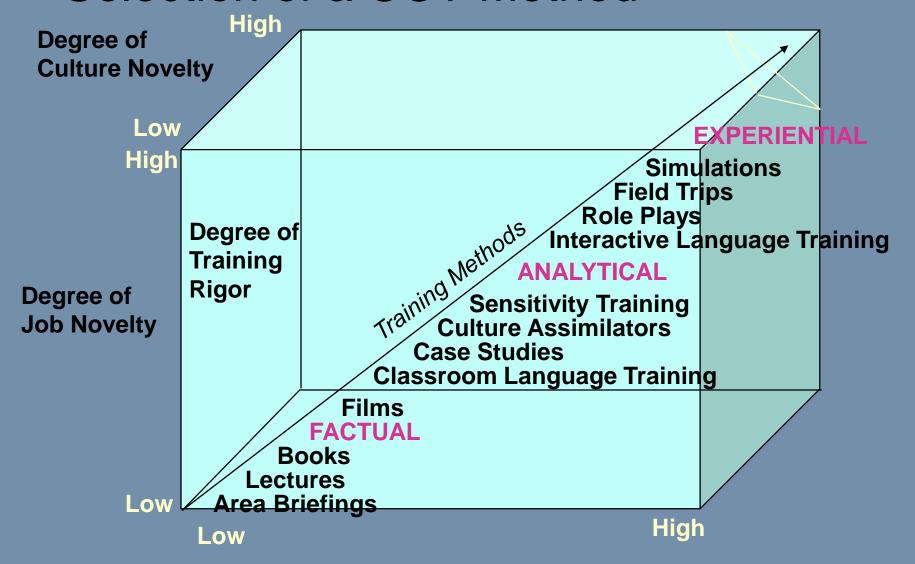
#### **Culture Assimilator**

Provides a written set of situations that the trainee might encounter in living or working in the host country. Trainee selects one from a set of responses to the situation and is given feedback as to whether it is appropriate and why.

#### **Field Experiences**

Provide an opportunity for the trainee to go to the host country or another unfamiliar culture to experience living and working for a short time.

## How Situational Factors Influence the Selection of a CCT Method

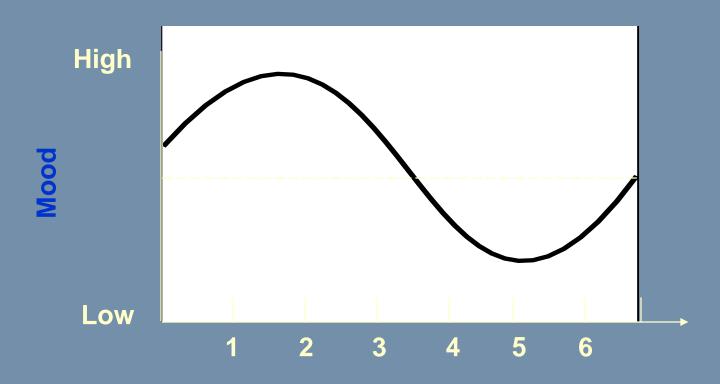


**Degree of Interaction with HCNs** 

### Cross-Cultural Adjustment

- Expatriates must adjust to new work situation, interactions with locals, and new general environment
- Company can facilitate adjustment by providing training for expatriates and their families before and during the assignment
- Expatriates often experience cultural shock

### • Culture Shock Cycle



**Months in a New Culture** 

### **Expatriate Evaluation**

- Job abroad may include more than what it does at home
- Senior expat managers often evaluated on financial performance of subsidiary

### **Expatriate Compensation**

- Influenced by general corporate compensation policy
- Expats usually receive extra compensation and benefits
- Different packages offered in different locations

### Typical Expatriate Benefits

- Overseas premium
- Housing allowance
- Cost of living allowance (COLA)
- Moving expenses
- Tuition for dependent education
- Home leave
- Tax reimbursement plans

### **Expatriate Reentry**

- Reverse culture shock common
- Many organizations fail to successfully manage expatriate reentry
- Individuals may pursue boundaryless career
- Organizations can help to ease reentry

### Changes in Global Mobility

- New types of cross-border employee transfers becoming popular
- Most important objectives for cross-border transfers to transfer skills and knowledge and to develop and manage global competencies

#### Convergence or Divergence?

- Large corporations' preference for consistent worldwide systems
- Smaller
   companies' desire
   for more
   professional
   systems

- o Need to follow local HRM laws
- Development of unique techniques and practices to suit local cultural and legal requirements

#### Implications for Managers

- Every international manager has responsibility for effectively managing human resources, therefore must understand IHRM functions
- Helpful to understand IHRM because of potential career impact